287795US3PCT

TATO 28 MAR 2006 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMS

' IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hirofumi TONGU, et al.

SERIAL NO: New U.S. PCT Application Based on PCT/JP04/09941

GAU:

FILED:

Herewith

EXAMINER:

FOR:

SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR MUFFLER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

| The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed |
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| references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English |
| translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references. |

☐ A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

| Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s), published application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be |
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| related to the present application. In accordance with the waiver of 37 CFR 1.98 dated September 21, 2004, copies |
| of the cited pending applications are not provided. Cited published and/or issued patents, if any, are listed on the |
| attached PTO form 1449. |

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

| Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication |
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| from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of |
| this statement |

□ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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SHEET 1 OF 1

| Form PTO 1449 (Modified) | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 287795US3PCT | | SERIAL NO. Application Based on PCT/JP04/09941 | | | | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | AO | 73328/1994 | 10/18/94 | JP | | | | NO | | | |
| | AP | 2003-172119 | 06/20/03 | JP | | | | NO | | | |
| | AQ | 2003-65032 | 03/05/03 | JP (with English abstract) | | | | NO | | | |
| | AR | 6-83914 | 12/02/94 | JP (with partial computer generated tra | nslation) | | | NO | | | |
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| *Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | | | | | |

New U.S. PCT Application Based on PCT/JP04/0994 AP20 RECUESTIO 28 MAR 2006 Hirofumi TONGU, et al.

Docket No. 287795 US

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

- 1) References AO AP have been cited in the International Search Report. A copy of these references is being submitted herewith.
- 2) References have been cited in the corresponding Search Report. A copy of these references is being submitted herewith.
- 3) References AQ AR are discussed in the specification. A copy of these references is being submitted herewith.
- 4) References are additional prior art known to Applicant. A copy of these references is being submitted herewith.